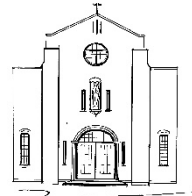


Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 19th March 2023



204, High Street
Waltham Cross
Herts EN8 7DP
01992 623156

<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/walthamcross>
walthamcross@rcdow.org.uk

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THIS WEEKEND'S LITURGY

Today, having reached the halfway point of Lent, we celebrate Laetare Sunday. This Latin word means "rejoice." We rejoice in the knowledge that the cross does not end in death, that Jesus' story does not end in the tomb. The Church also celebrates the second scrutiny today, a significant step for catechumens but also an opportunity for all of us to look into our hearts for the sinful habits and tendencies we may not even see. In today's Gospel, Jesus heals a blind man. More significantly, he can heal our blindness to sin as well. Let us rejoice!

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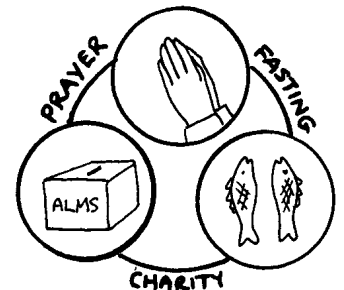
MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 18th March
Sunday 19th March

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Monday 20th March Joseph
Tuesday 21st March
Wednesday 22nd March
Thursday 23rd March Turibius
Friday 24th March
Saturday 25th March

6.30pm Charlie & Mary Kerr RIP
8.30am Rose Slattery RIP
11.30am Pat Martin RIP
6.30pm People of the Parish
10.00am Maureen Hollebrand RIP
10.00am Salvatore Infantino RIP
10.00am Jemima Abara
10.00am Tanya Leung - Intentions
10.00am Philip MacNamara RIP
6.30pm Pasquale Neglia RIP



TODAY'S READINGS:

Samuel 16:1.6-7.10
Psalm 22
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm 129
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

LIVE STREAMING FROM THE CHURCH

The live stream runs twenty-four hours a day, so you can 'visit' the Church whenever you wish. There is a link on the Parish Website and it is also accessible at <http://www.churchservices.tv/walthamcross>.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

During Lent, we are asked to pray for: Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

For those who are ill: Nicola Harker, Ann Shipwright, Laurel Reeve, Julia Barrett, John Fleming, Annie Lutwack, Richard O'Reilly, Rosalie Olayokun, Barbara Alexander, Emily West, Linda Tank, Lily Barber, Michelle Herity, Gladys Asare, Natasha Papet, Mimmo Santagata, Rodney Imbert, Lisa Thorogood,

For those who have died recently: Clive Randall-Wood, Ethel Sutton, Carmela Viola, Pietro Castronovo, Delia Cavaciuti, Desmond Powell, Remegia Longman

And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time: Kathleen McLucas,

LENTEN PRAYER AND PRACTISES

There will be Stations of the Cross in the Church each Friday morning at 10.35am, after the morning Mass, and at 7.00pm in the evening.

This Year, the Diocesan Faith Sharing Resource for Lent is called Enlarging the Space of Our Tent. It is an invitation to reflect with fellow Christians on issues which are at the heart of the kingdom in 2023: Poverty, the impact of the cost of living, homelessness, racial justice, the care of creation, the welcome we extend to migrants and refugees, and peace-making. There are two Faith Sharing Groups, one will continue on Tuesday 21st March at 9.00pm on Zoom, the second Group will continue on Thursday 23rd March, at 10.30am in the Meeting Room. For the morning meeting, just turn up. For the Zoom meeting, please contact Eucharua on 07984 153877.

LENTEN ALMS

The Collection Box near the Statue of St Anthony will be used for the collection of your Lenten Alms Donations. You can also make donations online, just put Lenten Alms as the reference. We will be using the donations to support the Broxbourne Food Bank.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2023 Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And this crisis is far from over. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can't give financially, your time is a priceless commodity – please see the posters on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Thank you for last week's Offertory collection, which came to £1,032.92, plus the Regular Standing Orders.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

On Saturdays from 10.30 – 11.00am and from 5.45pm – 6.15pm.

BAPTISM THIS WEEK

Saturday 25th March at 1.00pm – Liam Jenkins

FUNERAL THIS WEEK

The Funeral Mass for the late Pietro Castronovo will be celebrated on Friday 24th March at 11.30am.

WARM SPACES PROJECT 2023

We are providing a warm space here in the Meeting Room in the Parish Centre each Monday. It's open from 10.00am – 3.30pm. We are offering hot drinks as well as a soup and sandwich lunch.

RCIA

The RCIA meets on Monday evenings at 7.00pm in the Presbytery.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Confirmation Preparation will continue on Thursday 23rd March at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre.

HAVE YOU SIGNED A GIFT AID FORM?

We will soon be putting in a Gift Aid claim asking the Inland Revenue to give us the Tax that you have paid on your donations. If you have stopped paying tax please would you contact the Parish Office on 01992 623156 so that we don't ask for the tax if you haven't paid it.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

We are preparing to issue the new sets of Offertory Envelopes. If you no longer use your Offertory Envelopes or wish to move from Envelopes to a Standing Order, can you please let the Parish Office know. Thank you.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

Darren Sylvester, a Solicitor from DJS Law, will be offering free legal advice surgeries. The Surgery Sessions are in the Parish Office, just ring the doorbell at the Presbytery. If you would like free, independent, impartial and confidential advice, (for example) debt, employment, housing, consumer rights (the list is not exhaustive) then come along on the last Wednesday of every month between 7.30pm – 9.00pm. Next session is Wednesday 29th March 2023.

AA MEETINGS

The AA Meetings are on Sunday evenings at 8.00pm in the Meeting Room, in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

THE CORONATION CEREMONY IN MAY

We will be able to live stream the King's Coronation to the large Screen in the Hall in the Parish Centre. The Hall will be open on the day for those who wish to come. Please bring your own picnic!

CARETAKER REQUIRED AT ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary school is seeking to appoint a Caretaker to commence as soon as possible. Full details of this job vacancy can be found at https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view,caretaker_81554.htm

If you are interested or require further information, please contact the school office on 01992 629503 or email schooloffice@stjosephs351.herts.sch.uk

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – LENT APPEAL

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. You can give using the envelopes in the Church, or at cafod.org.uk/give and please join in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13th May 2023 at 2:30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

HOMES FOR UKRAINE MATCHING SERVICE

Caritas Social Action Network, in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services, an international Catholic charity with many services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland, are matching Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war in their country with people in the catholic community willing to host them in their homes for six months. If you have a room in your home and in your heart to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then they would love to hear from you. Please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/>

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

All are invited to join the Diocese of Westminster's annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 21st to 28th July 2023, led by HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Book now to avoid disappointment as places are limited via the Tangney Tours portal at: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/westminster-lourdes>

If you have previously indicated 'St Frai Pilgrim' on an Expression of Interest Form, or know of someone with significant medical and mobility needs who intends to come to Lourdes, contact the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173 immediately, so the Medical Team and can look into assisting with requirements and care. Similarly, all individuals or groups intending to travel independently to join Westminster in Lourdes, by making their own travel and accommodation arrangement, must confirm this in writing to the Pilgrimage Office by 30th April 2023 as well as submit payment towards the Pilgrims' Levy at £35 per pilgrim. Visit the Lourdes Pilgrimage web page <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or contact Elizabeth at the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173.